

ENGLAND Fair

TO A

Speedy Repentance :

BEING

An Earnest Exhortation to a Holy Life, By
The only Deliverer from ~~Earthly~~ Pain
and Destruction.

Wherein is plainly laid down,
The great Duty of Speedy Repentance,
Wretched State of a Sinner, and the Glory
of a Saint : Shewing how the one will
will be cast for ever into the tormenting
Hell-Fires. And the other will be admitted
Heaven, to celebrate Beams, Honours, and
of Lords, who (sitting in the Right-Hand of their
Master) will shortly come to judge the World.
Likewise, some Pithy Arguments to perswade
the Reader to close with Christ.

Preached by R. Liford, B. D. since the terrible
quakes that have lately happen'd in Sicily,
in Mount Etna, where Seven
and Six Hundred and Eighty Persons
And now published, to awaken those
still lyg in Security, whilst God's judgments
are upon the Earth.

2 Pet. 3. 9. The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, but is long-suffering ; not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

LONDON, Printed for J. D. at the
gate of St. Paul's.

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ENGLAND Fair & Glorious

TO A Speedy Repentance:

BEING

An Earnest Exhortation to the Help of God,
The only Deliverer from Earthly Ruin
and Destruction.

Wherein is plainly laid down
The great Duty of Men, now in
Wretched State of a Simple Soul,
of a Saint: Shewing how the soul
will be cast for ever into the
Hell-Fire: And the other will be
admitted into Heaven, to celebrate Eternall Hallelujah, by a Host
of Lords, who (sitting at the Right-Hand of the Father) will shortly come to judge the World.
Likewise, Some Pithy Arguments to persuade Men
close with Christ.

Breached by R. Liford, R. D. since the draw-
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in Sicily, near Mount Etna, where
and Six Hundred and Eighty Devastated
And now published, to awaken Men
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are upon the Earth.

¶ Per. 3. 9. The Lord is not slack concerning his promise,
(as some men count slackness;) but he hon-
oureth his word. All willing dayes may be had to
make time to repentance.

LONDON: Printed for C. and J. DODSLEY,
at the Sign of the Cross.



England's Fair Warning to Repentance, &c.

LUKE 13. 5.

I tell you nay; but except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.

In the first Verse of this Chapter, you have the sad piece of this News, that was told Jesus, concerning the Galileans, whose Blood Pilate had mingled with their Sacrifices. In the second Verse, you have our blessed Saviour's Answer to his News; saith he unto them, Suppose ye that these Galileans were sinners, above all the Galileans, because they suffer such things? I tell you, nay: but except ye Repent, ye shall all likewise perish. And yet further, In the fourth Verse, Or those eighteen upon whom the Tower of Siloe fell, and slew them; think you, that they were sinners, above all men that dwelt in Jerusalem? I tell you, nay: but except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish. This former part of the Chapter contains the sermon of Repentance, that was preached by our blessed Saviour.

Repentance is a pure Gospel-Grace; it comes in by Jesus Christ; he hath purchased by his blood, that repenting Sinners shall be saved.

England's earnest Warning to Repentance.

The Doctrine I shall raise from these Words, is,

That it is a great Duty incumbent upon Christians, to Repent, and turn to the Lord : Or else
If God will judge his People, he will visit them with his Judgments, to strive to turn them to him, by Repentance, and turning to Jesus Christ : for

Repentance and Conversion, is the only way to true Salvation. I need not stay to open the Text to you, and to prove it by Scripture : For if thou beest a Man or Woman, that doest not believe the Word of God, then thou believest, that without True Repentance, none can be saved, as the Text hath said it. *Except ye repent, ye shall not enter into the Kingdom of Heaven.* Well then, what sayest thou Sinner ? Doest thou believe, or no ? Thou must profess thyself, that this is true ; or say plainly, That thou will not believe the Word of God : and if once you are come to that pass, there is no final O hope of you : look to your selves, as well as you all can ; for 'tis like you will not be long out of hell. You would be ready to lie in the face of him that give you the Lyfe, and dare you give the lyfe to God ? If you will not believe the words of our blessed Saviour, whose will you ? And wouldest not he say, *That except ye repent, ye shall perish.* He doth you not say you may perish, but you shall : Nay, then the Devil doth of it ; let God be True, and every Man a Lyar : Christ hath Spoken it, *Luke 10. 15, 16.* *Say ye unto them, It shall be more tolerable for Sodom, in the day of judgement, than it shall be for this people.* *It nations, that believe not those words of our Saviour.*

England's First Warning of Judgment.

Use 1. Is this a truth, That Repentance is the
only way to prevent the judgments of God. And
bringg over our heads, because of our Sin ; then,
Or first of all, I would entreat you, observe the
cursed nature of this cursed thing called Sin : you
see, Sin must be repented of, or we shall all perish,
for we shall all be damned : Sin will utterly de-
troy both our Bodies and Souls. I think it is
one of the hardest things that is, to understand
the deadly poison that is in Sin : Sin is that which
the Lord hates. The soul that sins, shall surely die :
This was the Old Law. But the Gospel of Christ
hath said, Repent and forsake your sins : Or, Accep-
t and believe, and you shall be saved.

Use 2. Is Repentance the way and means to
prevent a People or Nation from perishing ?
Then from hence you may learn the Excellency
and the Usefulness of that Grace of Repentance.
Oh ! What an Omnipotent Grace is this ! It is
a Grace that can do any thing with God : This
Grace of Repentance can redooe our mortgag'd
Blessings ; it can make us a happy People, See
Eph. 3. 18, 19, 20. I have surely heard Ephraim be-
our moaning himself thus ; Thou hast chastised me, and
I was chastised, as a Bullock unaccustomed to the
yoke : Turn thou me, and I shall be turned : for
ther thou art my Lord my God. Surely, after I was
turned, I repented ; and after I was instru-
med upon my thoughts : I was ashamed ; yes, even shamed
to be founded, because I did bear the reproach of my nation.
Ephraim, my dear Son, is he a pleasant Child :
for since I speak against him, I do earnestly remember

THE THIRD PART OF THE WORKING IN REPENTANCE.

What if all my bonds are turned for blemishes ?
How easily do you misery over him, saith the ye
Lord ; From hence you may observe, That Repen-
tent Slaves are exceeding precious in the eye
of the Lord ; his heart is turned towardo me
them : Oh ! What an excellent Privilege hath a
penitent heart with God ! My Beloved, How
can you live without such a Grace in your Soul ? You
want it ; your Families want it ; and the Na-
tion stands in need of it : The greatest Want this
day in England, is a broken Heart.

Use 3. Is Repentance the only way to prevent Curse
Judgments ? Then from hence gather, That It
when God either bath his Plagues upon a Peo- God
ple, or continues threatening his Judgments ro-
wards them, it is a sign that those People are pen-
itent very guilty of Impenitency. If God threatens ye
thee, O England, to give thee up to hardness of the
heart, and blindness of mind : Do the God do it
at thinday ? They say (O England !) thou art pen-
itent People at this day. O England ! this
is my Charge against thee, You have been a Guilty
stiff-necked People. O London ! London ! How
long shall the Lord wait upon thee, before thou
wilt repen ? What can you expect, but that God
will yet visit England with his Judgment, till we
be humbled, and heartily repen us of our Sins
? For Sin, that the Nation mourns. Oh, the
Sweating, Whoring, and Sabbath-breaking, the
Schism, and Disobedience to Magistrates, is this
day in London ! O you sinful Generation, is this
your requiting of God for all his Mer-
cies ?

ties? *Deut. 32. 6.* Do ye thus require the Lord,
ye foolish and unwise! What say ye? Will
you repeat or not? This is my Question, which
I have so ask you this day: Will you Repent?
Do not scatter your selves about Matters of so
great concernment as your Immortal Souls. Con-
sider this (O Sinners) if you will repent, then
you may live happy in the Land of your Nativity,
and go to your Death-beds in peace: But if you
will not Repent of your Sins; then, I say, you
must (instead of Blessings) expect nothing but
Curses.

It is plain, that God is angry with you: for
God would never have sent so many judgments
one after one another. Once more: Will you re-
pent, or will you not? If you will not, your sins
will lie at your own doors. Do not think it is a hard
Question, when I ask you to Repent; but con-
sider, there are two places where there is no re-
penting; the one is in the Grave, the other in
Hell. It were a vain thing for me, to go to the
Gates of Hell, and cry to them, Repent; for
the Day of Grace is past, and their Doom is
called upon them. I do verily think, that there is
more sorrowing in Hell for sin, than there is
this Day in England; but their sorrow is not a
sanctified sorrow: If the Damned in Hell were
delivered out of Hell, they would sin again; if
they lived eternally, they would sin etern-
ally. But I am not a speaking to Men in
Hell, but to you Sinners in England.

England's Fair Warning to Repentance.

1. I say unto you, Repent : Because Jesus Christ hath commanded you under great Penalties, if you do not. Consider a little O Sinner who 'tis that calls for Repentance : it is not but the great God ; it is Jesus Christ : and doubtless Christ could never have prested you to the work, if it were not necessary. He saith unto you, Repent : and I say unto you, If you do not your sin shall not be blotted out. Wo be unto that Man or Woman that repents not ; better it were that he had never been born, than he has never seen the Light : the Parents that have them, they may repent that ever thou wert born. It would grieve your Parents to see you carried to the Gallows to be hanged ; and will grieve much more grieve them, to see you carried Body and Soul, into everlasting Burnings. Then do go to be tormented with the Devil and his Angels for ever.

2. Repent ; for Christ hath encouraged you with many precious Promises : he will heal you of your back-slidings, and love you freely ; though your sins be as Mountains, he will make them as Mole-hills ; thoughts Red as Scarlet, he will make them as White as Milk.

But some will Object, and say, This is a hard Work. What shall we always go with Tears in our Eyes ? What will God give us for our trouble ?

Ah ! poor Sinner ! fear not ; do not question your Reward ; for as sure as God is true, so surely thou shalt have Christ, Heaven and Glory, and

be happy for ever. Sinners, methinks it should make you to quake, to think how God will deal with you at the great and dreadful Day of Judgment, when he shall say, *Take him Devils, bind him hand and foot, and fling him into everlasting burning; where shall be weeping, and wailing, and gnashing of teeth.* Oh! it is a dreadful Sentence, to be adjudged to Everlasting Fire; and look for it, Sinner, if thou wilt not repent, these are the words that thou shalt hear Christ pronounce against thee, *Depart from me, I know you not.* And thou mayst be sure (O Sinner) if thou art not with Christ, thou must be with the Devil, which must be either in Heaven or Hell.

3. Repent, because the Lord hath long waited upon you: How long hath God stood at the Doors of your Hearts, wooing and beleeching you to repent? How long (O thou proud Man or Woman!) hath God called unto thee? How often hath he knocked at your hard Hearts? but you would not let him in. Oh, thou grey-headed Sinner! God hath long waited on thee, or may be, ever since thou wast Fifteen or Sixteen Years of age, to see if thou wouldest repent.

4. Or despisest thou the Righteousness of his Goodness, and Forbearance, and Long-suffering, not knowing that the Goodness of God sendeth thee to Repentance? There is not a Blessing that thou hast from God, but it hath his writ upon it, *Repent of thy Sins.* Wilt thou think of this? When God puts the Bread into thy Hands, he faith unto thee, Sinner, *Take this*

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Bread, Eat, and Repent : And when God puts the Cup of Beer into thy Hands, he faith unto the Sinner, Take this Cup of Beer and Repent : When thou risest in the Morning, he faith unto thee, Sinner, Take this Suit of Cloaths, put it on, and Repent : Every Mercy that thou receivest from God, calls to thee for Repentance.

4. If you will Repent, and leave your Sins, God will not be angry with you. My Beloved, you have heard the Parable of the Prodigal Son, who when he had spent all, he returned home to his Father's House : so, my Beloved, God is your Father, but you are Prodigals : all the Sin you have committed against him, is Prodigality. But let me tell you, If you are willing to come to God's Feet, he will take you about the Neck : If you are willing to forsake your sins, God is willing and ready to pardon your sins, though you have been a wicked, rebellious, and sinful People ; yet if you will turn to the Lord, he will turn to you.

5. Repent ; because the Lord sendeth his Messengers unto you, for to intreat you to Repent. Woe be unto you, therefore, if you neglect this great Salvation. You know, that it was one main Reason, why God took away his Prophets and Ministers from Jerusalem, because they would not hearken to their Messengers : as you may read, Mat. 23. 37, 38, 39. O Jerusalem ! Jerusalem ! thou that killst the Prophets, and stonest them that were sent unto thee.

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England's Fair Warning to Repentance. 11

How often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not? Behold, your houses are left unto you desolate. For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. I may very well apply this to London. - Oh! how often would the Lord have gathered you, even as a Hen gathereth her Chickens? but ye would not. What say you now, England? O London! will you Repent? or will you not? Will not all this that hath been said, prevail with you? Alas, I am heartily sorry, to see that nothing will prevail with you, but the Flames of Hell! Oh, then you would say, Oh! if we had but hearkened unto the Voice of God's Messengers, that were sent unto us, to call us to Repentance.

6. O England! Repent to day, and turn to the Lord. O! delay not an hour longer; Time is, a precious Jewel, more worth than the whole World; and if Time be once lost, there is no regaining of it. O fall down upon your Knees, and bless God that you have yet the Light of the Gospel, and that you have Time left to secure your Souls, and get an Interest in Jesus Christ.

First, Consider how dreadful it will be to you, when you come to die, if you do not Repent and turn to the Lord, while you are in health. O how will you cry out, when your

Hour of Death approaches, when you shall see all the things of the Earth fail you, and leave you nothing but your outward Enjoyments, Parts, Parentage, Birth, or Breeding, Wealth, Crowns, Kingdoms, Pearls, and Diamonds, Houses, Lands, Wife, Children, and Friends, when once your Breath is gone, and all these are gone, *Prov. 27. 24.* Hear now this, you that are given to Pleasure, that feast before your selves in doing evil; you that put far from you the Day of the Lord; you that say, It is time enough to Repent, when we come to die, Ah, Fools, how do you know whether God will give you Repentance then, or no.

Sirs, I beseech you, Repent, while it is called to Day; for you know not whether you shall live till to morrow.

O consider, with a trembling heart, how much depends upon this Repenting, and turning to God; namely, the gaining or losing thy dear and precious Son; gaining or losing of God's Favour, the Fruition of God, the Joys of Heaven, or the Torments of Hell depend upon it. Poor Souls, I pity you with my very heart, to see how ignorant you are of so great Concernments: you Eat and Drink, Sleep, Lye, Sell, and get Gain in the World; but little do you mind to accumulate heavenly Treasure, to get your sinking Souls safe a-shore. You consider not the evil day, woe be unto him that is alone in Life, and alone

shall alone in Death, that has no Christ to befriend
and him, or stand by him in that day ; that com-
morth to lye down in his Grave, without Peace
or Pardon, without hearty Contrition, with-
out Repenting of his Sins : and shall Rise
again, and stand at the Bar of God's Justice,
without an Advocate to plead for him.

7. And *Lastly*, Try your Repentance by
the Word of God ; see whether it be true
Repentance, or no ; for the Devil hath many
Cheats : search your own Hearts, to see whe-
ther those Sins you formerly loved, be now
hated and shunned by you.

Make ready for the other World ; think
upon the other World, think upon Death
and Judgment : Death, that King of Ter-
rors, will, e're long, terminate your Days,
and then all your Opportunities will be gone
for ever. Let me ask you, as in the Presence
of the Great Judge of Quick and Dead, at
whose Tribunal you must all shortly stand, and
giving an Account of your Deeds) be either
received up into Heaven, or plunged into
Hell. I have some Queries to ask you :

First, Are not they in a very happy Condi-
tion, that (Repenting) turns to the Lord with
their whole Hearts, living a Life of Grace,
and truly preparing for Death, for fear of
losing their own Souls, being in a hazard of
Heaven ? Rom.8. 7. Psal. 37. 37.

Secondly Do you believe that Death will
come, and that Sin, that cursed thing, will
sting,

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sting ; and that the Case of all impenitent Sinners, at the hour of Death will be sad and terrible, and desperate ? Let me say to all such, there is not a Night you lie down on your Beds, but you run a very great hazard, if Death should call, and you not ready, you must go, though you are ruin'd to all Eternity, though you be damned for ever, Mat. 25, 10, 11, 12, 13.

Thirdly, Can you cheerfully entertain the thoughts of Death, and Judgments, all you hard hearted Sinners, that have not Repented ? Suppose the dreadful Judge should at this instant send Death with the Names of Five, or Six of you in a Writ, or Forehead, and Death should say, You, and you, this Man, and that Woman, must go along with me ; I have received a Command from the great terrible God, who hath the Power of Death and Hell, to bring you this Day, or Night, before the Judgement-Seat : I have often warned you by sending my Deputies these Ten or Twenty years. Every Grave, and Coffin you have seen, was so many Intimations of my coming : Now, saith Death, I am come to see my Dart, this Dart must kill thy Body, and send thy Soul into Eternity, I command you this moment, to bid adieu to this World, Luk. 12. 19, 20. How can you think of your dying, and the Worlds burning, the Trumpet sounding, the Dead Corps raising, and standing at the Bar of God's Justice, and not fear

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item and tremble you that have not Repented: you, Sons and Daughters of Pleasure, did you consider what horror and astonishment doggs you on one the Heels, which will inevitably come upward on you, as Travel on a Woman with Child, you would not say unto God, depart.

Item. Fourthly, And lastly, Oh! what a killing and amazing sight will Christ's coming in the Clouds, be to all that either deny his coming, or will not prepare for it by speedy Repentance: His Incarnation was terrible, Mat. 26. 3. His Crucifixion was more terrible, Luk. 23. d. at 44, 45, 46, 47, 48. But his Judging the World is of the Great Day, will be most terrible, then shall the Tribes of the Earth mourn Mat. 24. this. And men shall cry to the Rocks to fall on with them, Rev. 6. 15, 16. When they shall see so many Thousands, and Millions of Men and Women dragged down to that burning Lake of Fire, and Brimstone, there to be tormented for ever: How will they then cry, Oh that we had Repented! they will howl for Consolation of Spirit, and in the bitterness of their Souls wish that they had never heard of me, a Christ, that they had been born among Heathens, or never had a Being, or enjoyed a life of Pleasure upon Earth. How will the wretched Sinner beat his Breast, pluck off his Hair, tear his Bowels, crying when he is penitent, Hopes, Oh that I had now no Soul, or that his immortal Soul were mortal, that I might scarce be tormented in these dreadful Fames for ever